

Original Journal

THE
ADMIRABLE
TRAVELS
OF
Messrs. THOMAS JENKINS
AND
DAVID LOWELLIN;

CONTAINING


A Tour of 3000 Miles through the unknown Tracts of Africa; describing the manner how they were driven on the western Coast by a storm, Sept. 1. 1770, and taken Prisoners by some hundreds of Negroes, sold to an Indian Chief, carried to Court 500 miles inland, raised to great honours by the sovereign Prince, with their strange mode of obtaining leave to quit his Dominions.

Together with the Manners, Customs, Fashions, Complexion of the Inhabitants, their Diet, Produce, Traffick, Wealth, and Religion; as also, the numerous wild Beasts, Serpents, Fowls, Hills, Mountains, Valleys, Rivers, Plains of the Country, lying between 16 South latitude, 21 East long. and the Equator.

Likewise, Their mode of travelling, and loss of Jenkins through fatigue, in attempting to cross the extensive Sands; with the manner how D. Lowelin lived full five Years on an uninhabited Spot, and his providential Delivery on the 11th of April 1779, by a company of Merchants, who blindfolded his Eyes on the Journey, to prevent him from discovering the Situation of their Country. His elegant Account of their opulent Capital, and arrival at Grand Cairo in Egypt, on the 10th of May 1780, with his substance; and a short Account of some remarkable Things in Turkey, as taken on his return to Britain in September 1781.

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[Price Six Pence.]



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LIVES, VOYAGES, and TRAVELS
of Messrs. THOMAS JENKINS and
DAVID LOWELLIN.

I D. Lowelin was born near the spot where the castle of Methravill once stood, in the county of Montgomery, anno 1726. I removed from thence, with my parents, to an hereditary estate of their own, situate between Aberistwith and Cardigon, on the sea-coast, when about three years old; and having a full prospect of the vessels passing up and down the channel from my father's door, my early attention was from time to time ingrossed, and frequent inquiries made concerning them, which increased as my ideas opened, till they became troublesome, and often difficult for those near me to answer, which raised in me a desire of seeing those fine cities, towns, and countries I so frequently heard magnified by servants and others daily conversant with me, whose delight was to explain such innocent inquiries, to my satisfaction, whether truly acquainted with the subject, or not, as some who had never been twenty miles from the spot would, from hearsay alone, entertain me with various relations of many distant parts, adding plausible embellishments to excite my wonder, whereof my indulgent parents approved, without reflecting on the impression it made in my tender mind, till I had imbibed such inclinations for going to sea, as could not afterwards be removed, though never intended for it by my parents, who having no other children, were both so extremely fond of me as to gratify my desires in almost every point; and frequently hearing me express an inclination for going abroad, they jointly consented for me to visit Liverpool, Dublin, Cork, and Bristol, with Captain Jones and his son Griffith my school-fellow, who had been several trips at sea before.

This youth was of a rambling disposition, and filled my head with such idle notions of the empires, kingdoms,

nations, valuable commodities, and riches of the globe, confirming all he said as really true, which I was brought to believe, through seeing the numerous shipping, docks and merchants yards, with the elegant streets, squares, and magnificent structures contained in those cities. I returned from this voyage at the latter end of October 1741, after having been full three months absent from my parents, who received me with inexpressible joy, thinking it would be the last I should ever make, having consented thereto, purely to gratify my curiosity, without suspecting that I should have any such like request to make in future; and when they found me so determined to continue traversing the rugged element, their grief became inconceivably great, and increased with reflecting on their indulgent conduct, for not suppressing it in time, by properly checking servants on every occasion, which they knew had been totally neglected; and perceiving it to originate from their over fondness of me, a return to Montgomeryshire was proposed, and accordingly took place, in May 1742, to a house nearly surrounded by hills and woods, plentifully stocked with game, and situate near the banks of the Virnew, thinking to wear it from my thoughts by other amusements, whereof I had both fishing, fowling, setting, cards, dice, musick and dancing, with suitable company: Never was proper advice wanting, or more pains taken with less success; every proposal tending towards the establishment of my future peace, being unhappily considered by me as detrimental to it; for, being unable to procure leave to set out, I most indiscreetly threw off that filial duty which I ought to have held most dear, and took 120 pounds sterling from my father's scrutoire, and therewith decamped by night, disguised in a waterman's habit: I arrived at Landerinye before day light, from whence I got a passage to Worcester city, in a barge laden with timber, and from thence to Bristol, in a trow belonging to Broadley; and there took a passage for Corke, where I arrived on the first of March 1744, just fifteen days after I left my father's house, being in the eighteenth year of my age.

So intent was I in going I knew not whether, that I indentured myself for three years servitude with the commander of a snow belonging to Liverpool, who assisted me in the purchase of proper necessaries for the voyage, and took me on board the vessel, being then laden with provisions for the West Indies, to whose people I instantly became subservient

but could not reconcile my hands to the cordage, which in a few days made them so extremely sore, as I could not hold fast enough to prevent myself from dropping off the sprit-sail yard, into such a rapid tide, as instantly waisted me along side; which the Captain observing, jumped into the boat, and drew me out by the hair, just time enough to save me from perishing therein. This providential delivery from the jaws of death, in such an instant of time, brought me to reflect on the disobedient conduct shewed to the best of parents, in leaving them as I had done, placing their inconsolable discontent in colours I had not before thought of; nay, every fault I had been guilty of, accused me of truly meriting all the punishment which the just vengeance of heaven thought proper to inflict. In this situation of mind, I proposed to send a letter to my parents, in order to crave their pardon, as also of making my case known to the worthy commander; but this laudable design was over-ruled by a ridiculous notion of being jeered by my companions for undertaking what I had not courage enough to go through-stitch with, therefore I resolved to pursue my first plan, by endeavouring to surmount every obstacle thus marked out by my own indiscretion; and having lost our second mate, with three other hands by the oversetting of a boat, and two more that gave us the slip by night, one being the ship's cook; and the captain observing the condition of my hands, ordered me to officiate in his room. This change had the desired effect in every thing but drawing water, wherein others were ordered to assist, till my hands became seasoned to it; but the figure I cut in paring potatoes for lobscouse, making bergow, boiling beef, pork, and plumb-pudding, washing greasy bowls, platters, pots and pans, with rooting among coals, and making fires, was truly piteous, being curiously painted with soot and slush.

We sailed from Cove in the beginning of April, with many other vessels outward bound, and, having a fine passage, arrived at St. John's in the island of Antigua, about six weeks after, where, having delivered our cargo, we sailed for York-town in Virginia, to take in a cargo of tobacco for Liverpool, and arrived there in the month of July, by which time my hands were become pretty well seasoned, though still in the cook's office, which confined me to the vessel more than others of the crew, which was considered as a kind of prison, and my indentures a war-
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rant of detainure to keep me from traversing the continent of America, which my rambling thoughts run so much on, as to forget the obligation due to the worthy commander for saving my life in the harbour of Cove, and other indulgent favours conferred on me during the voyage, most obstinately breaking through the agreement subsisting betwixt us, by artfully giving him the slip, and flying to the house of a Planter for shelter; but the place of my retreat being shortly made known to the captain, he ordered me on board, and complaining of my ingratitude, embellished my hands with a pare of ruffles, humourously saying, they became me very well, as being ornamental and useful on the present occasion; but having small hands, and the irons over large, I privately drew them in and out at pleasure, without being suspected, till a suitable opportunity of escaping thence offered, through the means of a country skipper, who came along side with a lading of tobacco, and privately agreed to carry me to his friend's house, where I might be concealed till after the vessel left New York, for one guinea reward; and to bring it about properly, I stept ashore in the evening, concealing myself in a bush, near the water-side, from whence he took me in as the flat past up along with the tide a flood, on having a quarterly wind; the next day he brought me into the company of Mr George Sinclair at his own house, near West-Point, who being made acquainted with the concern, positively refused to shelter me under his roof, on other conditions than that of serving him as an apprentice for the period of two years, to his trade or occupation of a shoemaker, which I preferred to the mortification of being conducted back to the vessel, which, without my speedy compliance, I foresaw must have really been the case; therefore, without hesitating, the bargain was made, indentures drawn up and properly executed betwixt us, when I found my new master's family to consist of five in number, *viz.* himself, wife and three children, the two youngest females, the oldest a youth of eighteen brought up to the gentle craft, who became my chief instructor, and a very suitable one he proved, on account of his being well versed in the French language, having learned it of his mother, who was descended from parents of that nation, and her husband taking delight therein, it was more practised than English, that thereby it might become more easy to the family; and it so far ingrossed my attention, as considering my restless fancy,

fancy, made these two years servitude pass on more delightfully than could otherwise have been expected. The pleasure I took in the study of this language so confined me to the shop and house, that I seldom or ever went out, except in the company of some one or other of the family, who seeing how diligent I was to learn, took so much pains to instruct me therein, that, by the expiration of my time, I could not only converse, but also read and write French tolerably well. During that period I sent two letters home, without receiving any reply to either; whereupon I immediately conjectured that they would not vouchsafe to write me on account of my disobedient conduct.

Being now at liberty to pursue the dictates of my own fancy, I, without further remorse, shipped myself with Captain Yeats, in a sloop belonging to Boston, then at West-point, she being a trader from port to port along the American coast, and sometimes from thence to the West India islands with lumber, bringing rum and sugar in return; which in some measure satisfied my rambling curiosity, as in this vessel I had the opportunity of learning the art of navigation, and visiting many strange parts, which was the only thing I hankered after. But one day she sprung a leak, in a gale of wind, having the pumps choked with sand ballast, and we must have inevitably foundered, or been lost, had not a passenger who showed us how to make use of canvass boxes which delivered sand and water just sufficient to keep her up till we reached New London.

This second escape brought past things to remembrance; and I wrote a third letter home to my father. His reply came to hand in June 1749, with an account of its being the first he had received from me, as also of my mother's death, and his own health in such a dangerous situation, as to have been given over by the physicians, and with a view to enforce my speedy return had inclosed a remittance for one hundred pounds sterling, payable at sight by a Philadelphia merchant. This letter I showed to the Captain, acquainting him at the same time with a minute detail of my past life. To which he replied, you could not have prevailed on me to engage you as a hand in this sloop, through fear of bringing the divine wrath upon me, had I known it sooner; and as it has pleased God to keep you above water so long, I most humbly hope he will likewise preserve you safe throughout the passage to England, where

I advise you to go without delay, as I dare not keep you with me any longer. These words, added to the affecting lines I had just read, threw me into a kind of melancholy reflections concerning this unhappy misfortune, which self-accusation gave me to understand I had been the sole cause of; and then too late to remedy the evil, I flew to Philadelphia, received the cash, and took a passage for Bristol in the ship Sampson, with a much stronger desire to be at home then ever I had to leave it; and, after a six weeks run, met with a gale of wind in the chops of the channel, which forced us into Kingsale; from whence I took my rout by land for Dublin, and from thence to Parkgate, in the packet; where I took horse, and got home by the latter-end of August, and there only found two servants in deep mourning, from whom I soon learned that my mother, on finding my cloaths in a closet where I had left them, at first sight, fell into a kind of trembling, through fear of my having made away with myself, in some shape or other, which being followed with a nervous fever, occasioned her death nine months after: but that my father was of a different opinion, by reason of the desire I had to travel; and missing the cash, believed I had taken it for such purpose; nevertheless, diligent search was made in the ponds, river, and woods, for several days, at my mother's request, and messengers were sent to Bristol, Liverpool, as also to my father's estate on the sea-coast, and other parts, without being able to gain the least intelligence of me, insomuch that my uncle, his family, and the neighbouring inhabitants, were greatly divided in point of opinion; some believing that I was either deprived of life through design or accident, while others believed me to have privately withdrawn myself in disguise, being strongly confirmed in their opinion by many accurate circumstances.

My father's health began to decline soon after my mother's death, and never left him, although not thought dangerous till within a few weeks of the time he received my letter, when all parties jointly agreed in accusing me as highly culpable for not acquainting them with a proper account of my intended voyage, by a letter from Cove, which was my duty; as such timely information would, in course, have prevented the melancholly catastrophe from having happened. This point of neglect threw me into despair, which was highly increased by the visible gloom

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that appeared in every countenance; though my father had, in his last moments, enjoined his select friends to look over it, as a thoughtless incident, which any other youth might have been guilty of, and not to make the remaining part of my life unhappy, on account of that which he was pleased to say, my own conscience would in future, sufficiently punish me for; and this was truly verified: for I believed myself to have been the cause of shortening their days, and in consequence thereof had excluded myself from all hopes of salvation.

I chiefly dreamed by night of what I had been musing on the day before; and continued thus oppressed in my mind, till, in order to deliver myself therefrom, I began to think of suicide; but the everlasting punishment due to such a crime, deterring me therefrom, I entered my closet, and earnestly began to pray to God, to shew me some mark of his enlightning grace, if my grievous sins were not altogether unpardonable. I remained for some considerable time pouring out my soul to him who gave it; then arising from my knees, I withdrew into the adjoining room, and, taking a turn or two, threw myself on the bed, to meditate, when the following words came into my thoughts, "I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful;" and gladly applying it to my own case, a dawn of hope ensued, which was followed by a comfortable nap, wherein methought I saw a considerable large orifice in the wrist of my right arm, which looked raw within, and dry about the edge, as though it had been made for some considerable time, with the sharp and rugged end of a broken stick or splited piece of wood. Upon the skin appeared two things black as jet, being no larger than small ticks, resembling beetles or clocks which live in under-ground cellars, or damp places, crawling so artfully to and fro about the orifice, as that with all my studious care I could not prevent them from creeping into it, where they burying themselves in the flesh, shot their spawn or brood in such a manner as the vitals soon became visibly infected, without feeling any pain except that of the mind, though apparently unable to extricate either of them, whereby I was so greatly agitated, as to think of sending for a physician to try his skill. When awaking from my dream, I remembered every particular, at the same time looking upon it as a heavenly impulse, thus typically revealed to answer my request, in thereby shewing we what power Satan hitherto had got

over me; as I now perceived that every sinful thought and action of my whole life, originally sprung from his infusion. I therefore cried out, saying, O Lord, be thou my physician, I beseech thee, and enable me to resist and overcome the common enemy of all mankind.

After this I remained pretty well composed for several days, though not intirely satisfied in mind concerning my own salvation, till one day, when leaning back in a great chair, and falling into a kind of dose, but whether asleep, or otherwise, I do not pretend to say, because I really thought myself awake, I observed a person of nearly my own stature gradually approach me, concealing all the way his features from my view; when near, he pronounced these words, *Believe, and be saved.* Then he vanished from my sight like a shadow. This unexpected favour entirely convinced me that I was not out of the reach of mercy. My hopes therefore increased, and I became very thankful for having been thus happily prevented from putting a final period to my own existence.

I now viewed my former ideas with great horror of mind; and in order to wear them off intirely from my thoughts, I determined on moving to some distant parts, where the affair was altogether unknown, which I directly put in practice, by ordering my household furniture, and other concerns to be disposed of with all convenient speed; and having turned them into cash, found myself possessed of four thousand pounds, exclusive of my estate on the sea-coast, which brought in one hundred a year neat produce. Then dismissing my servants with suitable presents, to make amends for the hasty manner of it, I took leave of my relations, and other select friends, and directed my rout across the mountains for Cardigan. When I arrived there, I sent for my tenant, and having settled matters with him to my wish, I took a passage with Griffith Jones my old shipmate, who at this time, had a sloop of his own bound for London, with merchants goods from Liverpool, having been put in here by contrary winds, two days after my arrival. Upon hearing of it I quickly made myself and design known to him, whereat he shewed much pleasure in having my company to London, where we, after a delightful passage of twelve days arrived in July 1750, and being hauled along-side of Cotton's wharff, I took lodgings with an acquaintance of his own on Tower-hill, from whence we in visiting the curiosities, public gardens, and other places

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of resort, accidentally met with a most intimate acquaintance of good family in Sadler's Wells, who having been some years in London, strongly invited us both to come and spend an evening at his lodgings in Leicester Square, which we accepting of, found him in a very genteel situation to all appearance, with several companions of no mean aspect in company; and spending the evening very agreeably, it was followed by other visits from time to time. We soon became as intimately connected together as formerly, inasmuch that when my friend Griffith left us, I took apartments under the same roof. Here our favourite diversions were cards and dice, whereat I and my companion Mr Tho. Jenkins were continually partners, and frequently came off winners, to the amount of five or ten pounds, and sometimes more, for the space of a month or five weeks running, which I ascribed to our superior skill; but was therein highly deceived, for luck taking a different turn, we lost seven hundred pounds at one sitting, whereat my partner shewed no further concern, than telling me, it was not the first time he had met with such a loss; but that it gave him little or no concern, as he always got his money back with double interest; and, if I would try my luck by joining him again, he would likewise have this sum, or throw as many thousands after it; and not suspecting any under-hand design, I, without hesitation accepted his proposal, which, in the conclusion, fleeced me of all I had, my estate being likewise sold to the winner, and the money lost. My partner also pretending to have been so far taken in, as not to have enough left to discharge his lodgings, which he knew to be the case with me; and in consequence of such speech, the winners presented us with a hundred pounds each, which my pretended friend said enabled him to discharge his servant and lodgings, as also to undertake his journey to Wales, which he proposed to set out for the next day, leaving me to pursue what course I thought proper; and being ashamed thereof, I, without mentioning it to any other person, considered the whole as a kind of temporal punishment, justly due to my past conduct, and without giving myself any further concern, I procured sea-cloaths, and soon got a birth in a vessel bound for Leghorn.

I continued in the Strait's trade till the beginning of the year 1757, when I betook myself to his Majesty's service, and remained in it till the conclusion of the war, which being over, I continued sailing to various parts of the globe

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in different bottoms, which having nothing more in it than what commonly happens to a seafaring life, I therefore pass it over as unnecessary. But on the month of February 1770, when being taken sick on the passage from Naples to Amsterdam, I was left behind the vessel at the house of Mr. Dart, at the English flagg in Younger-street for sick quarters, where money running short, I, at his request, shipped myself for the East Indies, under the denomination of a Dean, no Englishman being admitted into that service knowingly, the regular wages before the mast is a eleven guilders *per* month, making just twenty shillings English money, with a bounty of 150 guilders instead of a venture, which none are allowed to carry; but the money is always duly paid on the ship's return to Holland, whereto we may add another, which they also call a bounty of 200 guilders, for which sum the person shipped receives a note from the clerk at the India-house, payable at the return of the ship's books from the Cape of Good-hope; purporting that the person so shipped is still living, the latter being only a deception to all strangers, as it is only advance-money, and as such deducted from their wages, wherein I was also deceived, and should, if I had come home in the vessel, have lost ninety guilders by selling the note for one hundred and ten, before we sailed, which I only mention by way of caution to others.

Matters being thus settled I went on board, and in May sailed from the Texel with a favourable gale, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Jenkins my Leicester-Square partner, with whom I had been so intimately unfortunate, who I now found accoutered in a jacket and trowsers, though very sick and unfit for such laborious employ. The short account he gave, was so very lame and trifling, as did not appear worth inserting; I therefore pass it over, and only mention the perturbation of mind I saw him in, being too great to admit of exaggeration; I therefore commiserating such distress made his case known to the commander, who understood me in the French language, and directly ordered Jenkins to such employ as appeared most suitable to his capacity; and finding him unwilling to enter into the particulars of his distress, I did not think proper to make any addition thereto, by urging such recital; but, on the contrary, past all over as unnoticed, doing all in my power to serve him, which proved very lucky, as he had no other on board to converse with, though some of the people had a little broken English.

English. I therefore became his chief instructor, often assisting him in what appeared likely to afford him the most relief, whereby his affection was entirely gained, which was followed by a solemn league, purposely made to stand by and support each other on all occasions. We had likewise several French hands on board, all of whom I held in no small esteem, on account of their being far more obliging, and less deceitful than the Dutch. Their provisions which were much inferior to those used in English vessels, proved so great a hardship as I did not get the better of, till extreme hunger made their grout, and other dishes, to become palatable, or at least not so disagreeable; especially considering, that they may be more wholesome, because less scorbutical than ours.

From the beginning of July, to the 19th of August, we had frequent storms of thunder, lightening, wind and rain, some of which were most tremendous; when being in 13 east longitude, and 15 south latitude, we fell in with a small bark of 12 tun or thereabouts, sloop rigged, with her mast standing, but all her sails in rags, and no living soul on board that we could perceive. The ship being therefore hove to, and the small boat hoist out, Jenkins, myself, and a Dutchman, were ordered to go and see what she really was; but how great was our surprise on finding two black men and a boy so much putrified in the cabin as to be scarce able to bear the stench that issued from the scuttel, which having been properly reported, the captain, and other officers unanimously agreed, that the plague, or some other pestilential disorder equally infective, must have been amongst them, to occasion such a disaster; and they, in order to prevent the same from being communicated to the crew, most cautiously supplied us with plenty of provisions, water, and other necessaries, as also the long-boats suit of sails and pendent, with orders to bend them and steer after the ship, keeping a full league distance from the lee-quarter; and, if we took the infection to lower the pendent half mast, but to keep it chock up while our health continued, without approaching nearer than the limits prescribed, till a proper signal was thrown out: Being therefore willing to preserve our own lives, we secured down the scuttel, without removing the corpses; and having made sail, found eighteen inches of water in the hold, when we fell to the pump, and soon freed her; then consulting on what further steps were most necessary to pursue,

sue, we thought ourselves more safe from infection while in the open air, than if below, and therefore agreed to remain both day and night upon deck, till we should either fall sick or be relieved; but things happened otherwise; for on the evening of the 24th the mast was split to shivers, and most part of it carried overboard, the Dutchman killed at the helm, both Jenkins and I struck senseless to the deck by lightening forward, and upon coming to ourselves, we could not form any proper idea concerning the melancholy disaster before day-light, when we saw the Dutchman lying under the boom quite lifeless, very much scorched, not three feet of the splintered mast standing, the sails half-burnt, and only prevented from being wholly consumed by the torrent of rain that fell during the storm, part of them with the gaff and mast-head floating along-side, the ship standing right from us, at such a distance as to be quite out of sight in two or three hours after; however, on sounding the pump, we found that she had received little or no damage in her hull, therefore we cleared the wreck, and converting the boom into a jury-mast, endeavoured to make sail after the ship, but were drove fast to leeward by a strong current that set in shore from the south-west. Notwithstanding every discouraging circumstance that occurred, we, the next day, committed the body of our ship-mate to the deep, with the formal ceremony always used on the like occasion.

But now finding ourselves unable to evade being carried on the uncivilized part of the African coast, we preferred death by the plague, to thoughts of being massacred or enslaved by the natives; and having recommended ourselves to the divine protection, stripped into buff, and drawing the putrified bodies one by one from the cabin, lanced them over-board; then tearing down part of the bulk-head, took off the hatches to make the air circulate fore and aft; which being done, we scraped and washed the cabin, to expel the obnoxious smell; a compleat ransack throughout the bark ensued, wherein many useful articles were soon discovered, in particular, two small boxes, one containing six different pieces of stamped cotton, each piece full thirty yards in length, with ten or twelve pounds of thread; the other a quantity of small looking-glasses, beads, clasp-knives, scissars, and needles of different sizes, as if packed up for merchandize, with a direction on each box-lid in Portuguese, as we conjectured by the name of

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St. Salvador being thereon, but could not make sense of any more, for want of the language. Near a hundred weight of gun-powder was likewise found in good condition, as also, three times that weight of leaden ball, and smaller shot of different sizes, with a quantity of gun and pistol flints, but no fire-arms, or other thing of consequence, till the next day, when we luckily discovered two muskets, with their bayonets, two fowling-pieces, two brace of horse, and one of pocket pistols, with six small axes, twelve hand-saw files, four hammers, a dozen gimblets of different sizes, with 200 weight of nails, three hand-saws, three chisels, three spades, and as many cutlasses in their scabbards, all new, which appeared to have been carefully concealed between the seam-boards under the cabin beds, being all we found on board, except a few ordinary cloaths which the Blacks used to wear; an earthen pot, two plates, three broken knives, and a wooden can, with about five or six tun of ballast in the hold, but not the least sign of any provisions, roots, fruits, water, spirits, wine, oil, tallow, or any other thing necessary for the support of human life, was to be seen. Having made such necessary discovery, we jointly agreed, that the poor Negroes had not died of the plague, or other pestilential distemper; but it appeared most probable, that they, by endeavouring to make their escape from some part of the Brasil coast, had been lost, and starved to death for want on the vast Atlantic ocean; and what confirmed us more clearly in this opinion was, there being no pen, ink, paper, compass, quadrant, or other instrument necessary for the undertaking of such a voyage, less or more, than what we brought from the ship. At this time we were in 15 east longitude, and 18 south latitude, still driving towards the land, which we, according to expectation, saw right abreast on the 29th, bearing due east, and looking high at the distance of seven or eight leagues.

In this situation, we thought it more practicable and likely for us to reach some European settlement on the Guinea coast, than the Cape of Good-Hope, though at a much greater distance; and therefore we gave up all hopes of gaining the Cape, and putting about stood to the northward; but all the sail we could make proved insufficient to keep us from being heaved on shore by the current, which drove us to the disagreeable necessity of looking for an opening to run in to, being the only chance we had left to prevent

prevent the bark from being carried ashore in the surf, which, in the finest weather, runs very high on this coast.

It was not long before a suitable opportunity offered, for on the first of September 1770, we anchored in a little cove or inlet, every where surrounded with hills, woods, and rocks, except the south-west corner, whereat we entered with the tide a-flood, as appeared by the vessel's being aground so very soon, that we could walk round her on the sand full three hours before low-water; and seeing no inhabitants, or any other thing to oppose our designs, we therefore both well armed, ventured to ascend to the summit of next adjoining hill, from whence the extensive prospect we had of the inland country, with its rising hills, and lofty woods, here and there diversified with verdant savannas, and purling rills trickling down the rocks, as also the chanting of numbers of uncommon birds, warbling their wild notes, with native harmony, made the aspect of the country to appear truly delightful; and observing that neither house, man or beast, appeared in view, concluded this part of the coast to be without inhabitants, and that we had not so much to fear concerning them as was at first expected; therefore, in our return to the inlet, shot a wild turkey both large, fat and good, whereof we made several delicious meals: but not being fully convinced of our personal safety, we, to prepare for the worst, removed our most valuable concerns into a convenient hole in the rock, which had so low and narrow a pass, that only one could enter on his hands and knees, though it contained room enough for a habitation within, if found necessary; and of this hole we made both store-house and magazine, thinking it far more safe than the vessel which lay aground fully exposed to the natives, if any should appear; a most lucky circumstance for us, for on the ~~first~~ day of the same month, being looking for turtle and other shell-fish, near the entrance of the cove's mouth, without any other weapons of defence than two axes which we had in our hands to knock shell-fish from the rocks; our retreat to the vessel was suddenly cut off by some hundreds of Blacks or Negroes, with short wooly hair, all well armed with bows, arrows and lances; from whom seeing no possible way of escape, we instantly fell into their hands, without making the least show of resistance; and we were directly marched to a shady wood-side, which lay at the other side of the hill, where having made a halt, they regaled us with plantains, benanos,

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roasted yams, and a kind of liquor that proved no way disagreeable, serving it up in cocoa-nut shells, which we received very thankfully, and was offered part of a monkey half raw and half roasted, which they tore to pieces with their teeth, like as many dogs; but on this part of their repast we did not chuse to partake. Preparation for rest being then made, they laid themselves down upon the grass, forming a circle around us, with motions for us to ly down also. We complied, and seeing no way to escape, remained there about five or six hours, when, being regaled with a second repast, they began in the cool of the evening to march due north, and continuing on through savannahs, with a ridge of hills on the west, till about two hours after sun rise, when we came to another inlet or opening, at the distance of 18 or 20 miles from the former, where having made a halt, they refreshed themselves, and went to rest under the shade, as on the day before, all except small parties of six or eight, that went out occasionally to forage and bring in provisions, whereof they did not seem to be in want, as they took three meals each day, but did not stop by night till the 12th; and after having in like manner been conducted for about 40 miles to the north-east, we were then sold, or otherwise delivered up to a Black or Indian, with long hair, who appeared to us as ruler over a great multitude of his own species, being clothed from below the arm-pits, to a little above the knees, with a vest curiously made of flax, or such like materials, with four laps resembling those of a waist-coat, but something broader, having likewise several flat bits of gold fastened to his hair, by way of ornament. Many others did not appear much inferior in point of dress, but the poorer sort, being by far the greater number, had only the skins of wild beasts, or pieces of such cloaths tied about their waists, and less quantities of gold hanging to their hair. We also beheld a number of cattle grazing at some distance, which we took for asses; but, on further inspection, we found them more like horses in height, strength and spirits, only their ears were large, and more like those of asses. They were properly trained for riding on, or carrying of burdens, of which they had plenty.

Our new master proved mild, humane and gentle to the highest degree, using us more like companions than slaves, both at victuals and otherwise, daily admiring our hats, caps, handkerchiefs, jackets, shirts, and trusers, being all the cloaths

we had; and when he first saw us cut things with a clasp-knife, became almost frantic, having never seen the like before; yet he refused to accept of these valuable instruments when freely offered up; for the Blacks had not stript or taken any thing from us, except the two axes, which they took from us when they first seized us, and which we never saw afterwards, altho' we did not wholly part from the Negroes for near a month, during which time they continued bartering many of their own species with the Indians for cloaths, gold, and ivory, there being an annual meeting with them for such purpose.

We had now the pleasure of sleeping upon a grass matress, under a tent, with our new master, made of cloth to covered with horse hides as to make it proof against all weather, such kind being used by the better sort of Indians, but those belonging to the lower class was made of skins only, and occasionally carried with them from place to place, their diet chiefly consisting of fruits, roots and herbs, whereof they had the greatest variety growing wild and very good. Of fish, flesh and fowl they eat but little, although in no want of cows, hogs and goats; they had also many wild turkeys, and a kind of partridge weighing 6 or 7 pounds, with various sorts of most delicious fish; but every beast, fowl and fish which fell in the way of the Negroes was greedily devoured by them without distinction, not even excepting the alligator and serpent, which the Indians often killed, and gave to the Negroes to eat, some of both kinds being five or six yards in length, which we had the opportunity of seeing before the tents were struck.

When the Negroes returned, the Indians took their rout towards the East, through an open country, very thinly inhabited for about 400 miles, having about 2000 of both sexes in company, with full as many horses. We had the pleasure to ride by our master's side, making regular stages of about 20 miles each night, setting always off at sun-set, and pitching our tents at sun-rising, in which we mostly continued all day, to evade the heat which was extreme, having a sufficient quantity of Negroe slaves employed to forage and bring in provisions from the woods occasionally, some of which they roasted, and others boiled in rough coarse pots made of clay, neither glazed within or without, but stood the fire mighty well. Their favourite liquor was a mixture of pine-apples, oranges, lemons, honey and water, which they had in great plenty throughout the

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the whole journey, and sometimes palm-wine: but the former was held in far greater esteem by the Indians, who instead of pitchers and glasses made use of calabash and coconut shells for drinking utensils.

Having past many rising hills, pleasant valleys, avenues and crystal streams, we arrived in a town, containing four or five hundred houses, being low built of cane and sticks resembling basket work, and roofed with a kind of grass, which effectually keeps out the storms. Here old, young, rich, poor, male and female came to see our dress and colour, in such numbers, as to partly break our rest, though nothing but civility appeared in their behaviour. We were in like manner gazed on, as we passed through every town and village, which seldom lay more than five or ten miles apart, till we reached the capital, near a hundred miles further east, containing three or four thousand houses; having, in the latter part of this journey, crossed three shallow rivers directing their course from south to north, one passing close by the town, and, as we supposed, might all three run into one near the Equator, or possibly discharge themselves into another running from east to west, and so fall into the Atlantic ocean. The misfortune I had of loosing my instruments in the vessel, was now much lamented, having only half a quire of writing paper in the whole, and that luckily concealed under the rock, except one sheet, with an inkhorn which I had in my pocket, and therewith kept this short account, but was prevented from taking the true situation of this place, which, to the best of my judgment, lies 21 or 22 east longitude, and 15 or 16 south latitude. We had the honour of being presented to his Majesty soon after our arrival, and was most agreeably received, without shewing more homage than that of following the example of our conductor, who, on approaching near, prostrated himself on the earth, which we observing, took the hint, and did the same, from whence being quickly raised with his Majesty's hand, who appearing to be in a lingering state of health, yet for some considerable time viewed us both with a most agreeable air; then conversing a little with our conductor, we were taken into another room on the same floor, the palace having no rooms above, more than any other house, from hence we had as free access to his Majesty, as to our master, who proved to be a state-minister, frequently attending court; here we were in many respects as well, if not much better, than his Majesty, as we had deli-

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cious dishes of our own cooking, which he would not taste of. We found his Majesty's complaint whereof he had been ill some months to be a kind of intermitting fever, resembling that I had been troubled with in Amsterdam, and of which I was cured by taking flour of brimstone, which I since held in such esteem, as still to have some in my pocket, and by signs prevailed on him to take regularly as much as lay on a shilling each night and morning, for the space of fifteen days mixt with honey, which wrought a perfect cure in him, and highly advanced us in the esteem of both king and people. We had nothing more to do than command, and to be obeyed in every thing we could reasonably expect or desire, which made the time pass smoothly on till the second of August 1771. We had much rain in the months of May and June, which being over, the Indians prepared for another trading journey, by packing up their cloth in bags made of skins, each cloth about five feet long and two feet broad, worked by hand without the help of looms, from a kind of weed resembling flax that grew wild about the country. They have no inclosures, and did not seem to know the real value of the gold, which their children had been picking up from the rivulets during the whole year, and flattening the largest bits, through beating it between two stones, for their own ornaments, packing up the remainder with many elephants teeth and skeveles.

These preparations opened a new scene, which gave us no small hopes of being thereby enabled to visit the cove or creek from whence the Negroes brought us; and having learned some little of their language, partly by words, and partly by motion, made his Majesty sensible of our desire, which he readily agreed to pleasure us in. Accordingly, at the time above mentioned, we set off with our master, accompanied by his former train of merchants, being a little sooner than usual, as appeared by our arriving at the creek or inlet near a week before the Negroes, who, according to the best account I could obtain, had likewise a considerable nation of their own situate near the sea-coast, and extending north and south to a considerable distance on each side the inlet. As to the sloop we found nothing of her, except a few ground timbers, with the foot of the stem and stern-posts, appearing to have been cut off a little above the sands, wherein these remains was settled fast, and must in course have been thus cut and torn to pieces with the help of the two axes that we lost; the Negroes having no tools,

tools, or other instruments of iron with them, as we could perceive. Our other affairs being still safe, we removed them from the cove to our master's tent, where every article except those lapped in paper, was separately examined with surprise and wonder; but no one thing allowed to be made use of, or taken from the bulk, till we returned to court on the 27th of October following, where having been likewise viewed by the king, queen, his three other wives, and attendants with equal astonishment, six small nails, a gimlet, with about an ounce of thread, two needles, three musket balls, a knife and a pair of scissars being given to the priest standing by an altar made of earth, whereon he laid them, and made a kind of harangue or speech for the space of eight or ten minutes, to the chief or greatest part of the inhabitants residing in the town and neighbourhood, all of whom shewed a kind of religious attention to what he said, which being over, he took them up from the altar, walked in procession before the king, queen, and their attendants, being likewise followed in good order by all the rest to a grove, at the distance of near a mile from the town, wherein was an opening between the trees, of about 200 yards in width, at its first entrance, running taper towards the upper end, where stood a kind of wall made with the dried skulls of different sorts of wild beasts and other animals, carefully placed upon each other, and painted different colours, the largest whereof being that of an elephant, was fixed near the center, wherein he having put these wonderful curiosities harangued the congregation as before, when every one separately withdrew to their own habitation. This formal ceremony being over, a like quantity was claimed by his Majesty, and as many more by our master, which we considered as a kind of duty paid to the state and clergy, being justly due to them as a moderate demand on so many goods imported.

The clergy are held in much esteem, circumcise all their male children at a month old, and according to the best account we could obtain, they believe in God, or a supreme Being, who made both the heavens and the earth, as also in demons, evil spirits, ghosts and apparitions, to whom they commonly sacrificed both hogs, goats, and turkeys on an altar of earth.

A little before their merchants set off on their trading journey, a cow was sacrificed on their altar at the time of the new moon with great devotion seemingly paid to that planet,

planet. Being now well acquainted with the value of our mercantile stock, as also with the natural disposition of the people, and manner of travelling through the country, we jointly agreed to dispose of all the goods we intended to part with, for gold, Negroe slaves and horses, to assist in conveying us across the Torrid Zone, to Ethiopia; which said undertaking we thought no ways unpracticable: And if such point could be once gained, made not the least doubt of reaching Europe by way of Egypt. The first step we therefore took, was to make his Majesty fully sensible that we intended to change them for gold, wherewith he appeared highly delighted, and soon furnished us with about a quarter of a hundred weight of that metal in small bits, the largest whereof not weighing a full ounce, for which he took a hammer, a gimlet, and about twenty pound of nails in return, after having seen their use fairly tried. The next articles he examined were an ax, hand-saw, and looking-glass; it gave us no small pleasure to see his Majesty chopping off the small boughs all round a tree, as high as he could reach, with the ax, then cutting them off another with the hand-saw, till nearly spent for want of breath; and on seeing himself in the glass which had not been taken from the paper sooner, he hastily run backwards for some yards with his eyes fixt on it; then approaching slowly, peeped behind two, and again several times, before we could prevail on him properly to examine it in his hands. As to the needle and thread, we made them sensible of their worth by stitching the laps of two noblemens vests together, as they stood near each other, who, on perceiving themselves fastened, looked greatly shagrin'd; but we soon expelled their fears by cutting them asunder with the scissars, wherewith a sudden laughter ensued. And, with a view to continue such pleasantries, we tied various strings of beads round the neck and arms of her Majesty, and other ladies of rank, wherewith his Majesty and attendants was not so well pleased as we expected; neither did they resume their usual air of behaviour, until we had also bedecked them in like manner, having, upon the whole, found customers enough at court to purchase all our goods, except two muskets with their bayonets, the pistols, cutlasses, powder, shot, with five pieces of cotton, six pound of thread, a hundred needles, three gimlets, ten or twelve pound of nails, with a single article of every other kind, which we did not think proper to part with, our wearing apparel

apparel being likewise reserved. The sale being over, we found ourselves possessed of about 200 weight of gold, with two compleat tents, and cooking utensils of the best kind, six Negroe slaves, fifteen horses, with bags and other gear, necessary to prepare us for so long a journey, after their mode of travelling. One imprudent step nearly ruined all our future hopes of success; his Majesty, in viewing the fire-arms, though still ignorant of their use, appeared extremely desirous of being satisfied concerning that point, and being over willing to oblige him therein, without cautiously reflecting on the consequences that might ensue, I loaded my piece with swan-shot, and seeing two ostriches within reach, let fly in the presence of many hundred spectators, and killed them both; when the unexpected report, with the flash from the muzzle, and manner of seeing them deprived of life, so terrified his Majesty, and other spectators, that we were in a few minutes deserted, and left with only two Negroe slaves, who appeared so fastened to the ground with panic, as to be thereby rendered unable to get away; but soon after found means to give us the slip also. The misfortune brought on by this unforeseen accident proved nothing less than a total separation from all further communication with any of the Indian chiefs, or others of their nation, every one both male and female running to a great distance on seeing us approach; neither did all the motions and signs we could make use of, prove sufficient to invite them near enough to converse, and be convinced of our inoffensive designs and good-will towards them; their houses were also deserted where-ever we came, and every article contained therein left to our disposal, yet we did not touch or embezzel any thing, except provision; and finding ourselves thus foolishly deprived of our six slaves, and that we need not expect any further assistance from them, or the Indians, it reduced us to the disagreeable necessity of dividing our small cargo into thirteen parts, and laying it on as many horses, though not more than what six usually carried, reserving the others to ride on; and after having implored the divine aid, we ventured to set off on the 9th of November, bending our course north north-east, or as near that point as we could guess by the rising and setting of the sun, that being all the guide we had to trust to; and the news flying before us from town to town, we found them all without inhabitants, and the people at some distance viewing us in crowds as we passed along, till the 16th

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of the same month. We always set off at sun-set, moving on about four hours in the morning, and the same time in the evening, to avoid the extreme heat of the mid-day sun, not venturing to travel by night through fear of the wild beasts, or other accidental misfortunes, we might be liable to meet with in passing through such a vast extent of unknown country; and being at this time clear of the full inhabited parts, found ourselves unable to make good more than ten or twelve miles a-day, for want of slaves to forage for provisions, which took up much time; but we were obliged to put up with this inconveniency, and we continued at such rate, without meeting with any thing more extraordinary than usual, till the 21st of December, when Jenkins hastily drawing his cutlass, at one blow cut a serpent through at the distance of eighteen inches below the head, as it was moving towards us, and very near seizing me behind. This narrow escape put us more on our guard than usual, especially whilst seeking provisions, as it happened at such time. It measured about seven yards long, and ten inches through in the thickest part, with a gray back and speckled belly, in shape resembling those small snakes we have in the island of Great Britain; and till this time we met with good water every day running from the hills and mountains, that were situate on one side or other, as we passed along; but now entering a low flat country we found none the first day's journey, which gave us no small uneasiness, by reason of our having no more than what was barely sufficient to supply the beasts with; nevertheless, venturing on next day we came to a rivulet by seven o'clock in the morning, and pitching our tent near the spot, began to prepare for the consequence, by filling our water bottles, or rather bags, consisting of twenty four in number, each bag holding about five gallons English measure, being made of cow-hides and fastened two and two together by the Indians, for the purpose of hanging across the horses backs, answering better than small casks, they being equally as tight; and without such convenience we must have absolutely perished with thirst, or returned from whence we came, as in the course of the journey it so happened, that we several times passed on for the space of four, five, and even six days at a stretch, without being able to procure more water than what was carried in those bags, which took up so much time in filling, as thereby to keep us from setting off till day-light next morning.

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We continued our rout through the same flat country; mostly knee-deep in grass, amongst which lay many serpents; but none happened in our way so large as that before described. We got seldom sight of any hills, and what few we saw, appeared very low. On the first of February 1772, we came into very wet and swampy ground, more plentifully stocked with alligators than in any other part of our journey; by which we conjectured that we were drawing near the banks of some river, which the lofty trees in front concealed from our sight; Accordingly, ascending the top of a tree, I saw the river at no great distance, appearing to be near a mile across in the narrowest part, directing its course from East to West, but in a circular form, resembling that of a half-moon, into whose bite or hollow we had accidentally fallen; and being unable to cross with the cattle, we were obliged to alter our rout due East, keeping along the south-side till a place shallow enough to pass over it might offer. Nothing more dispiriting could well have happened, for from day to day, and week to week, we searched for the long wished-for spot without success; and what made this disappointment still more distressing, was our meeting with another river which discharged itself into that from the South, and appeared equally difficult to cross. This reduced us to the disagreeable necessity of traversing its course, as we had done the former. After all, we were obliged to encamp on the west side, till after the wet season, which began on the 17th of April.

In the course of this journey, which we suppose to be 1100 or 1200 miles, few black people came in view, and those at such a distance, that we could not tell whether they were Indians or Negroes. We saw many elephants, and found several large teeth lying on the ground, but did not judge them worth carrying away. We once thought we saw a lion at a distance, but were not certain; however, a leopard came full in view. We also saw a number of monkeys of different colours, with many wild cattle, horses, buffaloes, deer, goats, and other four-legged animals; but the most terrible of all was the barking of wolves, which frightfully echoed from the woods by night, and the alligators; to secure us from these we always kept a fire burning by night near our tent, where the horses continually grazed, having been, as we suppose, regularly trained to such a habit. The whole fifteen were still in good order, and our health no way impaired; and we returned thanks for such a valuable blessing.

On the 15th of July we resumed our journey, it having for some time been dry, and the river which had overflowed a large tract of land, drawn within its banks. On the 18th we saw large hills right before us; on the 21st we came to three huts in a valley near the foot of a hill, which had ten Negroes of both sexes in them, who at first seemed timorous and fearful, but growing bolder, they at length conducted us to a safe passage over the river, for which piece of service we gave them six small nails, a needle, and skeen of threed, wherewith they seemed very well pleased. From hence we changed our rout to north-east, as near as we could think, intending to fall in with the other river, where it might be found passable. We met now and then with rising hills, and pleasant valleys, thinly inhabited with Negroes, some of whom attempted to seize our horses, but I fired my piece over their heads, which made them fly to a great distance; others behaved civilly in bringing us palm-wine, fruits, yams, and cocoa-nuts, for which we made suitable returns, and offered to purchase one or two of their people, but they refused to sell any. In the low flat country we saw but few, and these so very shy as always to keep a sufficient distance from us, yet these few made the face of the country far more lively and pleasant to pass through, than that in the former part of our journey had done.

On the 13th of August we fell in with a river, directing its course from south-east to north-west, whose banks we traced till the 15th, and then crossed it safe near the foot of a hill, where observing the high lands to run along further east, and the nearer we approached, the more inhabitants there seemed to be, who frequently shewed strong inclinations to molest us, we therefore agreed to travel in the flat, but keep as near the high land as we could with safety, looking upon this as a branch only, and that we might expect to find the main river lying still before us, which proved to be the case; for after this we met with running streams far more frequently, as a week seldom past without our having one or more of them to cross. The inhabitants of the plain also grew bolder, and, by the 20th of September when we saw hills right ahead, their numbers were so increased, that we thought it dangerous to proceed further. Upon this we once more took our rout due north, for we well knew that the main body of the river lay that way, if we had not already passed over it, keeping as far from the high land as usual: On the 4th of October we fell in with

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having crossed, but it was still impassable, tho' not more than 200 yards across, which obliged us to trace its banks towards the hills, in the sight of Blacks every day, whose numbers multiplied as we drew near, till we at length observed them hovering at some distance in parties of six or seven together, as though intent on making us their prey; we therefore prepared for the expected attack, by loading all our pistols, and moving on with fixed bayonets, having lost our fowling pieces in the sloop. On the 9th we came to rising ground, where the stream appeared shallow enough to cross, and the Blacks observing us descend the bank, which was not over steep on either side, quickly joined all their parties into one body, making upwards of twenty in all, and proved so very swift of foot as to lay hold on every horse we had before they reached the water's edge; these two we rode on being surrounded by nine or ten, who aimed to pull us off; but having placed ourselves close together, two of the boldest were instantly run through the body with our bayonets, which did not put an end to their designs, or prevent the rest from endeavouring to pull the lading from off our other horses; nay, so fully bent were they on our destruction, that with two wooden spears, the only weapons they had amongst them, our two nags were both killed, and we were obliged to defend ourselves on foot, and to use fire-arms for the preservation of our lives. We dispatched half a dozen with our pistols, in less than two minutes, and observing two others make up the bank laden with bags from off the horses, we took aim with our muskets, and proved lucky enough to drop them both, which struck the rest with such a panic as to make them disperse different ways, leaving ten of their companions either killed or so wounded, as in our opinion, they could not recover. We then put our ladings to rights, and crossed the river with thirteen horses, having lost the other two in this unhappy affair; and seeing other parties of Blacks on this side, in order to evade the spilling of more blood, we took our rout due west, keeping near the water side till the 14th, when perceiving ourselves to be out of all danger of future attacks from their numbers, we changed our rout for the northward, pursuing that line till the 18th, when the rains set in with such violence, as obliged us to incamp, and remain in or near that spot till the 17th of December, not having made good three days' journey during that space of time; a circumstance we could not otherwise account for,

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except that of our being got 10 or 11 degrees nearer the equator, having during these months we were at the Indian town, observed only now and then a thunder storm to happen, and those of too short duration to obstruct their trading journeys.

From hence we continued on our usual rout in the fight of Blacks or their huts almost every day till the 24th of January 1773, when we came to such extensive sands in front, as the best eye could not see over, also lying on our right and left, where the horses feet sunk down so low as rendered all our efforts to cross them intirely usefess, being furrounded with uncommon dangers on every side, Ethiopia the only civilized part we expected to reach being separated from us by this sandy desert, though at no greater distance than about five or 600 miles in our opinion, it was therefore agreed that we must either find means to pass over them, or never return to Europe. Our affairs being therefore thought more desperate than ever, we again turned towards the Negroes in the east, chiefly keeping the sands in view, till our retreat was cut off on the 29th, by a party of fifteen or thereabouts, while as many more shewed themselves in front, to all appearance fully bent on putting a final end to our future travels. We therefore, without further hesitation, shot both their leaders, while briskly marching up in front and rear, which dispersed the rest among the trees, wherewith the country though flat was very well supplied, affording many places of concealment from whence they might one time or other fall on us by surprize, which was more likely to happen, as their numbers daily multiplied; and seeing no end to the sands though we believed this to be the shorrest way to it, if we could pass on, which seemed impossible on account of the distance we might have to travel amongst the Blacks, we, for the preservation of our lives, agreed to return back, and seek a passage in the west, though attended with ever so much fatigue and labour, even preferring all other difficulties and dangers that might befall us, to thoughts of being robbed and massacred by these uncivilized Negroes, of whom we by turning to the opposite point lost sight in ten or eleven days, still having the sands in view, but no inhabitants to dispute our passage, if it could be found that way. We continued on till the beginning of March, when we saw the good land circling round by little and little till it run along at about north-west. On the 17th of March it began to mizzle and rain, and daily continued

continued with very little intermission till the 6th of April following, during which time our travelling had not been thereby delayed, as it cooled the air, and enabled us to get on a little faster, not being attended with such dreadful storms as usually happened in other parts of the country; when observing the vegetable part circle round to south-west, we found ourselves on the most northerly point, near three parts surrounded by sands, which at this time were so fastened with continual rains, as to be thereby rendered much better for the cattle to travel on than grass. Being therefore unwilling to let slip such favourable opportunity, we procured some fruits, roots, and herbs, with the part of a hog ready drest; then loading the cattle with as much water and grass as they could well carry, we recommended ourselves to the Almighty's protection, and at day-break on the 6th ventured upon the sands, taking our rout northerly by the direction of the sun, as it now and then peeped through the mist. We proved lucky enough to arrive safe in a vegetable country next evening, lying at the distance of 40 miles or thereabouts, although the former part of our journey did not, in our opinion, exceed more than ten miles *per* day, one day with another. Having therefore returned thanks to Almighty God for such marks of his divine favour manifestly shewed in safely guiding us across these dangerous sands, we gave the cattle three-days rest; then pursued our rout in the same line of direction till the 15th, when again the sands appeared in front, being too extensive to cross, which experimental trials at length convinced us of; as also, that such like missing rain fell twice a year, chiefly setting in near the middle of March, and taking up in the beginning of May; and again from the latter end of September, to the middle of November, continually fastening the sands, which where at all other times soft and impassable. During the dry months we found ourselves on a fruitful spot inclosed on every side with desarts, containing about 200 miles in length from east to west, and half that extent in the broadest part, from north to south, having circumpast the whole compleatly; and in struggling to gain the main land from different parts of the east, west, and north sides, we spared no pains, having thereby lost three of our best cattle in soft holes or quick-sands by the month of November 1774, when the consequential result of so many disappointments, continually attended with such uncommon fatigue in the wet, proved nothing less than a sudden decline of my fellow-traveller's

traveller's health, who being seized with a pain throughout his limbs was thereby shortly reduced to uncommon distress and misery, without hope of a proper remedy, for want whereof the disorder increased, his stomach failed, his flesh declined, his voice became low, his body weak, and pain so great, as not to bear turning without making pitiful groans; and when he saw me truly diligent in procuring every thing within the reach of my power, and carefully administering them to his relief, with real marks of true compassion for such his unhappy condition, frequently trembling at thoughts of being separated by death, and so reduced to a far more dreary situation than before, which he observing, said, Alas, if you knew but all, you would not think so much of parting from me, notwithstanding the consequence of being left by yourself in this lonesome place, which something foretells me will assuredly happen; as also, that kind providence will afterwards release, and bring you safe back to Europe. Know then, that, as the words of a dying man, what I am going to add may be depended on as really true, I have been long since prest in mind to disclose the same, but my stubborn heart would not give way thereto, and however great your surprize may be, it is no less true, that I came to London with my fortune, which you knew to be considerable, and thinking it sufficient to support an independent character, soon formed acquaintance with several young gentlemen, whose substance were all far above the reach of my sphere, and being led into their expensive way of living, I soon became so very straitned for want of cash, as to find no better way of supporting the character I had begun, than by closely connecting myself, and becoming subservient to the dictates of three high-lived sharpers, who so far explained the mystery of dice and cards, and laid out the part I was to act, for the purpose of securing success on all occasions, as soon convinced me of their dangerous tendency, and how impossible it is for such as suspect not their designs to escape falling into the trap. You were the first I ever ensnared that way, for which treacherous piece of villany I received a fourth part of your fortune, being from that time extolled as an useful member of their society, living in all manner of vice and debauchery from year to year, till our characters became exposed, and we pointed out as notorious gamblers. Our income declined, and extravagant way of living continued, which caused us to betake ourselves to collecting on the high-way, till one of the part

was apprehended by Sir John Fielding's men, and he having got full scent of another ; in order to save my own bacon, I slipped over to Amsterdam, and in less than a week I received a friendly invitation from an unknown hand, requesting me to spend the evening with an English gentleman, at a capital house in the Wormer-street, where the biter was at length bit, and I most justly paid off in my own coin ; for not suspecting any cheat, I was left there full of wine, being afterwards stripped, confined in prison, then cruelly treated with blows, and short allowance, till, for the preservation of my life I consented to ship myself under the denomination of a Sweed, and go to India in the same vessel, that proved the instrumental cause of our being here. If you can therefore pardon or excuse a wretch who has most wickedly robbed you of all you had, and consequently reduced you to the necessity of working for your daily bread ; nay more, your being here is most likely owing to that very transaction, providence having brought it so about to punish me in your presence ; therefore grieve not after such a wretch as the justice of heaven thinks proper to afflict, especially as you see me unworthy to have the least mark of your esteem ; but rather content yourself with solitude, till such time as divine providence shall see fit to release you from it, as a Christian far more worthy of his protection than what I am. The open-hearted manner in which he so voluntarily declared the above, so endeared him to me, that notwithstanding past failings, I could not think of parting with him ; I therefore shewed no marks of displeasure, but returned such reply as appeared most likely to alleviate his melancholy thoughts, by assuring him of the increase and continuance of my friendly esteem, as also furnishing him with a short sketch of my own life, or such part as appeared most likely to shew myself as great a sinner, and if possible less intitled to the divine protection than what he really was : But all I could say on that, or any other subject, proved useless ; for he departed this life on the 17th of January 1775, persisting in his former opinion to the very last moment. I therefore removed the tent, and digging a grave in the spot whereon it stood, made shift to inter his remains therein with all the funeral rites due to the corps of a departed friend, being the last as I thought of the human species I was like to see.

I now resigned myself to fate ; and the tents being nearly worn out, I built a hut or habitation after the manner of the

the Indians, and therein found the tools and nails extremely useful; then I converted the tents and skins into bedding, and made the whole as comfortable as circumstances would allow, being situate near a crystal stream that sprung up at the foot of a rising hill, and came trickling by the hut, from whence I had a prospect of the western sands.

I next considered that my stock of gun-powder was more than one half expended, and if intirely so, I should be rendered unable to procure any other kind of provisions, except roots, fruits, and herbs. This put me on a plan of catching some young turkeys, fowls, partridges, hogs, goats and deer alive, which had till this time been my common diet, and therein I proved successful, for I took the young birds from their nests, and caught the others in snares set among the trees and bushes; and thus, with some degree of pleasure, I raised up a tame supply time enough to reserve a quantity of ammunition sufficient to defend myself against the wild beasts, there being lions, tygers, hyenas, leopards, wolfs, and crocodiles, tho' not so many, but that I happily escaped being assailed by any, except the hyena, which run at me with such fury as to receive the point of a bayonet, and the full contents of my piece down his throat, which laid him sprauling on the ground: He was more than double the bulk of the largest Tanner's dog I ever saw in Britain, tho' not much differing in shape, only having a sharp nose, and strong bristles on his back like a boar.

For the support of my tame brood, I digged up with much difficulty a quantity of roots that grew wild, and transplanted them into about half an acre of ground, lying in two different spots near the hut. In the space of three months, I received a plentiful crop; the one half of the produce being excellent yams, and the other half potatoes of six or seven pounds each, exactly resembling those which grow in Europe for shape and colour, being equally as dry, but very sweet. I had tropical fruits of all kinds in the greatest abundance, as also, honey, sugar-cane, and tobacco, with grapes and raisins, pepper and spice of various kinds, but no salt, and was therefore obliged to make shift without it; to which I may add the cabbage tree, bread-fruit, and exceeding good spinage all the year round. In order to preserve my live-stock from the beasts of prey by night, I built two out-houses for their reception, where-with they soon became acquainted, and grew so tame as to give me very little trouble in keeping them together. The

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apparel I usually wore, being only a cotton cap, shift and pair of trowsers of my own making, with the addition of a deer-skin jacket and cap, during the rainy months. The arms I carried were a loaded musket with fixed bayonet, a brace of pistols, cutlass, and ax fastened in a hairy belt; thus accoutered I usually rode and walked about the country, having much spare time. I also examined the running streams for gold, and frequently saw it ly in small bits of various shapes and size among the gravel, without giving myself the least trouble or concern to pick it up; nay, so plenty was this metal, that after every shower of rain that fell, I could plainly see it intermixed with the sand in many different parts, being considered as of little or no more value than lead, and as such would have been blown out of my gun had that article run short. I likewise saw it ly in many other parts of our journey, which persuades me to believe, that gold lies near the surface, without a vein running downwards, as in such case it would be as plenty as copper, and consequently of no more value.

I at various times picked up some diamonds in the sands, with much indifference, till having procured three dozen of different colours all transparent, with a few of the brilliant kind, every time I looked thereon, my youthful ambition was had in remembrance, accompanied with melancholy reflections concerning the death of my parents, on which account I believed myself to have been most justly banished from the society of all mankind, to live among the wild beasts, and there enjoy the wealth I had so much longed for, by way of punishment, for hankering after it when I had enough, and stood not in the least need thereof: Such thoughts were more strongly impressed when at my daily devotion, wherein I was continually resigned, believing it just, and myself well deserving of it; frequently musing thus, whilst seated on a mossy bank, lying between the hut and rivulet, where on the 11th of April 1779, I was alarmed with the sound of a human voice coming from behind the hut, which threw me into the greatest perturbation of mind; however, I hastily approached in a defensive posture, and was still more surprized with the sight of five well-dressed gentlemen, all armed with fuses and swords by their sides, appearing equally astonished on seeing me there, which they all expressed with such tender looks of compassion, as soon gave me to understand, that instead of enemies, I had now met with real friends, which they

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accordingly proved to be, civilly accosting me in an unknown language, then in broken French, desiring to know what strange miracle had brought me there, which I understanding, informed them of in the same language, as also concerning the loss of my companion by death, upwards of four years ago; which having properly attended to, they discoursed a little: Then turning to me again, said, If I was desirous of leaving the spot where I then was, and would consent to have my eyes tied up, or so muffled that I could see the way, they would, in the space of twelve or thirteen days carry me to a habitable country, where I might, during the remainder of my life, enjoy the company of a civilized people, which I thankfully accepting, shewed them my gold and other materials; whereat they smiled, saying, I should not be deprived of a single ounce, for both that and every other thing worth carriage should go along with me. By this time appeared three other men with a number of camels from the north, who came to this spot for water to supply them on the desert, which they were preparing to cross, I therefore offered up my tame breed of live-stock, or such part as they would accept of for the same use; and all being ready, with my gold, ammunition, arms, tools, nails, and cotton, they according to agreement blind-folded my eyes, and on the 13th we set off at a pretty good rate, as I apprehended, by the motion of the beast whereon I sat, covered with an oil-skin coat made of silk, as was every other person, having also light tents of the same materials, that stood proof against the wet; but took very little rest till the 19th, when having reached the verdure by my account, they incamped for the space of ten or twelve hours; then they pursued their rout over the grass till the 25th, when I was conducted to a feather-bed to repose on, which appeared so much like the delusion of a dream that I could not sleep, and much more so the next day, when having the bandage taken off, I beheld myself in the midst of a large, beautiful, and elegant city, inferior to none I had ever seen for grandeur, the whole forming one regular circle of about twenty miles, with twenty four capital streets, running from the center to the out-skirts at an equal distance from each other, and a third of that number regularly crossing them by circling round the town also, at an equal distance from each other. The town-house was a most noble structure, wherein the city business was transacted, it stood in the center, being the highest part thereof, from whence I could see the twenty
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four streets all running on a straight line to the country, from as many windows facing each of them, 96 octagon buildings of equal height and magnitude likewise appeared in view, with an image representing the sun, either plated or gilt with gold on the top of each, which, with a far greater number of other elegant structures, and obelisks on the flat roofs of almost every house, which were covered with shining metal of various colours, at first sight gave the whole a most brilliant appearance.

In the midst of this surprise, I was carefully examined before the sovereign prince, concerning the customs, manners, numbers and situation of the inhabitants I had met with from the first of my landing on the Continent, to the time they found me at the hut; but their French being very imperfect, I was a considerable time in making them to understand me properly. When fully convinced of the great distance the Blacks lived from the hut, as also of their being so thinly strowed, without fire-arms, or other weapons of defence, a secret pleasure seemed to over-spread the countenance of his Majesty and all present. Many other questions were then asked concerning the French, English and other European powers, all of which I having answered to the best of my judgment, was dismissed, with orders to continue within the circle of the city, as their laws would not as yet permit me to exceed those bounds. The houses were all built of brick, three stories high, being covered and railed about the top with different sorts of metal, whereon the people usually amused themselves in the cool of the evening, appearing to live in the greatest harmony with each other; neither was their good will to strangers less, I being every where entertained freely of the best, without payment, and never being refused admittance to the top of any house whatever, which furnished me with an opportunity of seeing the country, which was well stocked with houses, towns and bridges on every side, as also vineyards, gardens, corn meadows, pasture, and other green fields, with an innumerable quantity of camels, dromedaries and horses. Upon the 24 capital roads some laden with burdens, and others yoked in wheel-carriages, bringing provisions and merchandise to and from the city; coaches, chaises, chairs, and other machines of that kind, being seldom used, except by such as could not walk, I therefore saw but few of them. Their common diet was fish, flesh and fowl, with butter cheese, milk, fruits, roots and

and herbs in the greatest variety, which in dressing they made extremely palatable, or my having been so long without salt caused me to think so. They likewise had tea, chocolate, and sugar, with rum, brandy, and many sorts of excellent wines in plenty, but very seldom drank to excess, or disguised themselves therewith. The numerous artists were truly ingenious in manufacturing almost every kind of hard and soft ware, except woolen, whereof they had none, but made amends for such loss with cotton, silk and linens, wherein they excelled all I ever saw elsewhere. In regard to distinction very little was shewed to the ruling magistrates, great men, or clergy, more than others; yet all readily obeyed their commands in every point, without complaint or murmuring. Every thing I saw persuaded me to believe, that if true Christianity was established there, they would be the most happy of all the human race. In the space of eight months, I became so far acquainted with their language, as thereby to discover, that unless I married, and were in other respects conformable to certain conditions imposed on me by their laws concerning a determined resolution of remaining there with my family, I could not otherwise be allowed to range more than ten miles from the town-house, round which there was a vacant spot of ground containing about 500 yards in width from the other houses, where criminals for murder, theft and adultery were punished in the following manner. The two former being led three times round the town-house with a label on their back and breast, purporting the crime they had been guilty of, were then committed to prison for life, and after death publicly hanged in the same place where they had been so exposed; and the two latter with no other difference than that of tying the male to a ram, he-goat, and the female to a salt-bitch, with the necessary labels, and every other part of punishment as inflicted on the former; nay, such an aversion had they to the spilling of human blood, that by their own account, no sort of criminals were ever put to death by their laws; and, according to tradition, a most plentiful country beyond the deserts, had upwards of three thousand years ago been quite forsaken by their ancestors, in order to evade spilling the blood of some neighbouring enemy that made war against them. They, with their wives and families made shift to cross the deserts to this place, where their posterity had flourished ever since, and lived peaceably together, without meeting with any molestation from troublesome neighbours,

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and their situation being still unknown to other nations, they, to evade disputes and quarrels with them, chused to keep it so. Hence it appears the only reason they had for confining me within such narrow bounds, was fear, lest I should find my way to any other nation, and by making their situation known, involve them in future broils.

They all agreed of its being handed down from their ancestors, that two strangers came amongst them about 100 years ago, one of whom was a Frenchman, who married the princess, and lived there highly respected for something more than 20 years, during which time several persons learned to converse in his language, some relicks whereof still remain amongst the courtiers; and the other being suspected of treachery, every necessary precaution that could be made use of to prevent his designs from taking place was practised, yet he made the attempt, and failing therein shot himself through the head with a pistol. They stile themselves the FIVE TRIBES, and were distinguishable by as many different sorts of dress, being of a brown complexion; but their original extract I could not trace out. Upon the whole, in making love to a female, with an intent to marry, and have my bounds enlarged, I made use of such innocent freedom as would have sooner been approved of, than deemed a fault in Britain; for which I was accused before the ruling magistrate, who giving ear to the charge, it was made good: Whereupon I was committed to prison for life, as a capital offender against their laws, on the 5th of March 1780; the wealth being left to my own disposal now became useful. Gold was so plenty among them, as to be of something less value than silver.

In a few days the person who brought me from the hut, called on me, and conferred several hours with me concerning the laws of Britain, against which he at length became sensible that I had not transgressed in the affair whereof I stood convicted; therefore, on account of its having been occasioned more through ignorance than design, he promised to get my sentence altered for that of banishment to a country from whence I might readily find my way to Europe, if I would agree to be conveyed away in the same manner he brought me from the hut. An offer the most pleasing of all that could have been made in my then situation, which I most thankfully accepted of. He thereat appeared so well pleased, as not to part without first convincing me in what hainous light the crime I had so inadvertently committed was looked on amongst them. He declared, that the first step I ought to

to have pursued, was to inform myself concerning their mode of courtship, and in pursuing it might, without any offence to the female sex, or matrimonial laws, have procured a wife, by presenting the fair one I most approved of with a rose-bud, who, if she approved the suit, would place it in her bosom as a token of love, for me to present her with another half blown, that day month; and, in case she also placed that in her bosom, I was at full liberty to decline, or present her with another full blown, at the end of the second month; which if she likewise placed in her bosom as before, the match was so far concluded as not to be withdrawn, because they had two full months allowed to consider of it, by conversing together occasionally; and in case the man took any indecent freedoms during that space of time, he was sure to be considered as a dangerous member of society, and as such committed to prison for life, which, on account of their regularity in that affair seldom ever happens; the affections of the married couple being the only thing considered, and the stronger they appear to be linked together by it, the more pleasure it gives to their friends: They never throw wealth into the scale, let the difference be ever so great, but always approve their love for each other, as the only thing necessary to promote future happiness. He then took his leave, and performed his word on the 29th instant, by carrying me away on the back of a camel, with my eyes covered, having previously shewed the exact weight of my gold, by weighing the same before me in the prison. We travelled six or seven days before we came upon the deserts, and ten or eleven more before we got to the opposite verdure; then stopping a week, I was allowed to have the pleasure of looking about me in the tent, but no where else.

After this we had another journey of two days betwixt and the sands, and five or six more before we got over them; whence we pursued our journey, till the 10th of May 1780, when the bandage being taken from my eyes by an unknown person, who presented me with a laden camel, saying, Every thing thereon belonged to me, wherewith I was now welcome to provide for myself, and then he made the best of his way, leaving me in the open street of a large opulent city, without mentioning what place it was, or even waiting for my reply; where the multitude I beheld passing and repassing about their own affairs, on foot, horse-back, and ass-back, with the grandeur of some, and meanness of others, sealed up my lips with real surprize; and while I sat gazing

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on the latter of these animals, which had chiefly carried me since I left the sands, several persons thinking I was at a loss, came up to direct and put me right; but not being understood, others drew near by little and little, till I was surrounded by an innumerable croud of people; from which disagreeable situation I was at length released by a person of no small authority, whose servant led my ass and camel to the convent of St. John's, by his master's orders, where a French missionary gave me to understand that I was now in Grand Cairo the capital of Egypt, and thankfully rewarding the servant, I was there entertained with great hospitality; and on opening my pack found my full weight of gold, as weighed in the prison, with no other difference than that of its having been changed into sequins, ducats, pistoles, and moidores, to the amount of thirteen thousand pounds sterling, with some curious pieces of silks, cottons and linens. This visible prospect of returning to Europe in such opulent circumstances, brought the dying words of Mr. Jenkins to remembrance; and looking upon it as the entire work of divine providence, I therefore resolved on devoting the remaining part of my life to the service of heaven, and the good of mankind, at least so far as my natural capacity, and substance thus miraculously bestowed, would admit of.

Being informed of three Italian merchants that were pretty well versed in the French language, then in Cairo, and bound for Constantinople, I joined company with them, and accordingly set off the next day but one, for Alexandria, which prevented me from visiting the antiquities of Cairo, which they say contains more than two millions of souls; but let that be how it will, in my judgment the place itself covers much less ground than London, as appeared when upon the terrace of the castle, from whence I had a compleat prospect of the whole place, as also of Old Cairo, and the pyramids from a different part of the castle; likewise Joseph's Well, cut through the solid rock for near a 100 yards in depth, from whence the castle had then a full supply of water.

At Alexandria we embarked on board of a Turkish vessel, and after having touched at Smyrna, arrived at Constantinople by the latter-end of June. This city has a most elegant appearance, and is without dispute much larger than Cairo; said to contain full two millions of inhabitants, which by its great extent does not look altogether improbable. The established religion is Mahometanism, which depends wholly

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on keeping the main body of the people in ignorance; and that is effectually performed by prohibiting all manner of books, except written ones, which run so very high, as none except the great are able to purchase them; and this step enables the state to impose on the community, whatever they judge most likely to agree with their form of government, pretending to have prohibited the printing-press, with no other view than to keep many thousands of book-writers employed, which would otherwise be laid idle; but, in my opinion, the real fact is neither more nor less, than just as above described; however, the Turks are in general extremely devout, as also charitable, and so exact in trade as a child may be sent to the shop or market for things of value without danger of being wronged to the amount of a single farthing. The men are by law allowed to have four wives of their own religion, and as many female slaves as they are able to purchase, daily buying and selling the female sex in the publick market, like as many cattle, whose souls they consider as much inferior to their own, and consequently exclude them from equally sharing the felicity of paradise with them.

Here I disposed of six diamonds to a Jew merchant for five thousand ducats, and bore him company through Belgrade to Vienna, and from thence to Aix-la-Chapelle, where being taken ill, I stopped some months, then set off for Brussels, and from thence to Ostend, where embarking for Dover, I, on the 13th of September, 1781, arrived safe in London, after having been so many years absent from my native land. And shewing the manuscript to a few select friends, they jointly advised the publication of it; I therefore gave the same to ROBERT BARKER, an unfortunate blind man, for such purpose, having sufficient reason to believe him truly worthy of it; as also, that he will be very diligent in the affair, on account of his own living wholly depending thereon.

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